

OPINION

by **Prof. Dr. Toma Pozharliev, MD, DSc**

Regarding the procedure for assuming the academic position of "professor" in the specialty of Surgery with candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselin Marinov Marinov, MD, PhD for the needs of the Medical University of Varna.

I was elected as a member of the jury by Order R-109-418/3.10.2025 with the task of preparing a statement.

I am well acquainted with the scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Marinov, MD, PhD, as well as with his practical training. Assoc. Prof. Marinov is 52 years old, an associate professor of general and operative surgery at the Medical University of Varna. He works as the head of the minimally invasive and laparoscopic surgery department at the hepatobiliary, pancreatic and general surgery clinic at Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL "Tokuda". At the same time, he is also the deputy medical director of the hospital. To this position, he has gradually grown from a specialist in surgery in Pirogov, specialization in Essen, Germany, consecutively defending two dissertations and publishing two monographic works. He was elected Associate Professor of Surgery in 2019. At the current competition, Assoc. Prof. Marinov presents the following scientific production:

Scientific research activity

Dissertation for "DOCTOR OF SCIENCES"

Habilitation thesis - monograph on the topic "Surgical treatment of hiatal hernias" and GERD - 2025

Publications in scientific publications - 9 after awarding the title of "Doctor of Science"

Publications and reports in non-refereed journals - 25

Dissertation for the award of the title of "Doctor of Science"

List of 15 citations

Personal impact factor 7.5 after taking the position of "Associate Professor"

The references show that Assoc. Prof. Marinov has sufficiently fulfilled the scientometric requirements for the acquisition of the academic title "Professor" according to the ZRASRB.

Educational and teaching activities:

He was a chief assistant, conducting practical exercises with students, a lecturer as an associate professor with a workload at the Medical University of Varna with 20 hours of lectures per year. He is the supervisor of two surgical specialists and the supervisor of two doctoral candidates, one of whom has already defended his dissertation. He is a member of the state examination committee for acquiring a specialty in surgery.

From the submitted documents it is clear that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselin Marinov, DSc, has the necessary requirements to apply and be elected as AD "Professor" of Surgery. As I said at the beginning, I know well the path that Assoc. Prof. Marinov has taken from the beginning of his specialization in surgery to the present day. At the latest forums of surgical conferences and congresses, he presented wonderful reports on new surgical methods, especially in minimally invasive and robotic

surgery. He is emerging as one of the leading surgeon operators and even more so as a trainer of the new generation of surgeons.

Referring to the submitted documentation and my personal impressions, I strongly recommend that the esteemed jury award the Academic Title of "Professor" to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselin Marinov Marinov, DSc.

22.10.2025

City of Sofia Prof. Dr. Toma Pozharliev, DSc: